

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (DVAC)

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Victim Services Division

Friday, November 15, 2013 10:30 AM

USC Capital Center

1800 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Cherri Norvell Allison, Beth Hassett, Alva Moreno, Ben Schirmer (Chair), Lynda Smallenberger, Debra Suh (Co-Chair), Mary Walton, and Christine Ward.

Cal OES Staff Present: Leigh Bills, Gina Buccieri-Harrington, and Michelle Mahon.

Absent: Senator Ellen Corbett, Louis Gill, Nancy O'Malley, and Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez,

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ben Schirmer called the meeting to order at 10:42 AM. Domestic Violence Advisory Council (DVAC) members, Cal EMA staff, audience and phone attendees introduced themselves.

II. CAL OES UPDATES

Leigh Bills, Cal OES Domestic Violence Unit Supervisor, presented the Cal OES and Grants Management Section organizational charts and provided the following updates:

- Cal OES swiftly paid all requests for reimbursements which were impacted by the government shutdown. All requests were paid within the time allowed by the Prompt Payment Act so no late penalties were paid to the field.
- Cal OES has had contact with the Governor's Office or the Speaker of the Assembly's Office regarding new appointments. It is anticipated that appointments will be made prior to the February 2014 DVAC Meeting. Both offices requested attendance information. The information was inaccurate for one member so Cal OES will be handing out the attendance chart at each meeting. Cal OES requested all DVAC members review it periodically for accuracy.
- Janine Williams has been selected as the Supervisor of the Sexual Assault Unit, effective November 1, 2013.
- Mike Dayton, Cal OES Chief Deputy Director has resigned effective November 15, 2013. Cal OES is awaiting a replacement appointment form the Governor's Office.
- The Cal OES email system has officially migrated to "@caloes.ca.gov." Emails sent to the "@calema.ca.gov" address will be automatically forwarded.

Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Cal OES Grants Management Section Assistant Director provided the following updates:

- Cal OES has received a planning grant from the Blue Shield Foundation to develop a proposal for prevention for underserved/unserved populations.
- The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (The Partnership), the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are partnering with Cal OES to develop the proposed program.
- All funds will go to The Partnership and CALCASA. Cal OES and CDPH will commit staff time.
- Dawn Mehlhaff, Chief of the Cal OES Office of Legislative and External Affairs, passed away unexpectedly last week.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FORM AUGUST 23, 2013

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2013 DVAC Meeting.

Motion: Beth Hassett

Second: Alva Moreno

Discussion: None

Motion Passed (Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0)

IV. OFFICER ELECTIONS

DVAC members voted for Chair, Co-Chair and Sergeant at Arms. Cherri Norvell-Allison was elected Co-Chair and Ben Schirmer was elected Sergeant at Arms. There was a tie between Beth Hassett and Debra Suh for the Chair position. Ms. Bills will contact the absent members to acquire their votes.

V. SHELTER OVERNIGHT STAFFING

Kathy Moore, The Partnership Interim Executive Director, provided the results from the survey they conducted on overnight staffing of shelters. Of the shelters who responded to the survey, 48% have paid staff at the shelter overnight, 23% have a combination of paid staff and volunteers, and 29% do not have coverage overnight.

The DVAC discussed the results and determined there is no needed action regarding shelter overnight staffing.

VI. DV PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATE

The DVAC reviewed the fiscal year 2012/2013 reverted funds chart. The Domestic Violence Assistance (DV) Program reverted only \$57,345, which is less than 0.02% of total program funding. Eight agencies reverted funds. One agency reverted \$57,300 and the remaining seven reverted on \$45. The agency which reverted the

\$57,300 reverted last fiscal year and will be subject to the Reverted Funds Policy for the DV Program.

Ms. Bills reported that the DV Program has \$1,674,553 of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Victim of Crime Act funds in reserve for future fiscal years.

VII. PROGRAM REVISIONS

The DVAC discussed the responses to Cal OES' survey of the current recipients of the Domestic Violence Response Team (VA) Program. The four recipients were asked if they thought three years was long enough to implement the program or if a five-year grant period would be more appropriate to accomplish the goals of the program (for future program recipients). Two recipients responded that three years was sufficient and two responded five would be more appropriate. The DVAC discussed this further and a motion was made to maintain the three-year funding cycle for the VA Program.

Motion: Lynda Smallenberger

Second: Chris Ward

Discussion: None

Motion Passed (Aye: 7, Nay: 1, Abstain: 0)

Ms. Bills introduced the reason for discussion regarding the Family Violence Prevention program, reminding the DVAC that they had already tackled the other programs supported with discretionary federal funds (the VA Program and the Equality in Prevention and Services for Domestic Abuse Program). Ms. Bills provided the DVAC with California Penal Code Section 13823.4 that governs the state portion of funds provided through the Cal OES FV Program and explained that this has been a non-competitive grant for 16 years.

The DVAC discussed the eight goals identified in Penal Code Section 13823.4 and did an exercise to determine which two they consider most important at this time. The top two goals identified were:

- Increase citizen involvement in family violence prevention; and
- Replication of successful models, as appropriate, throughout the state.

Ms. Moore provided an overview of a prevention needs assessment they conducted in 2011. A series of 6 regional meetings ("Strengthening Our Prevention Network") were held to conduct a needs/resource assessment of domestic violence and sexual assault prevention advocates and service providers in California. Some of the findings included were:

- Strong recurring themes related to prevention staff feeling isolated and overwhelmed.
- Many expressed frustration with their perception they had been using outdated prevention materials and employing strategies that were inadequate for achieving their prevention program goals. Many indicated they did not know where nor how

to obtain updated materials and information about promising prevention strategies.

- Prevention staff expressed gratitude for the opportunity to dialogue with their peers, a desire for more ongoing connections to a supportive prevention peer network, and a willingness to contribute to building such a network.

Ms. Bills reported that in researching the best way to design the FV Program she met with Nancy Bagnato, Domestic and Teen Dating Violence Prevention Project Coordinator with the CDPH. The information gathered from those meetings indicate that many effective prevention models have been developed and what is most needed now, is funds to support the local implementation of the prevention models and ongoing technical assistance throughout the process.

Ms. Bills explained that the state funds had to be used to support the FV Program, but that federal funds were provided at Cal OES' discretion and asked the DVAC for feedback on how to best use the federal funds previously dedicated to the FV Program. If federal funds continue to be dedicated to the FV Program, Ms. Bills asked for feedback on whether the funds should go to one agency or multiple agencies.

Ms. Bills reported Cal OES will fund one agency to meet the requirement that "the agency shall develop and disseminate throughout the state information and materials concerning family violence prevention ...," so that there would be two programs, one for dissemination of materials/provide training and technical assistance and one to implement prevention efforts.

The DVAC discussed the benefit of making smaller grants to multiple agencies as a way to allow more agencies to benefit from the program and that smaller grant amounts keeps agencies from becoming operationally dependent on the funds.

A motion was made to recommend family violence prevention funding be allocated to multiple agencies.

Motion: Debra Suh

Second: Mary Walton

Discussion: None

Motion Passed (Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0)

A motion was made to recommend maintaining funding for family violence prevention programs at \$180,000.

Motion: Cherri Norvell-Allison

Second: Lynda Smallenberger

Discussion: None

Motion Passed (Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0)

A motion was made that an applicant can apply for both the implementation grant and the dissemination/training/technical assistance grant, but can't be funded concurrently for both programs.

Motion: Lynda Smallenberger

Second: Alva Moreno

Discussion: None

Motion Passed (Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0)

Ms. Bills clarified that if an agency is successful for both competitive processes, they would be asked to select one and become ineligible for the other.

VIII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following topics were identified:

- Amending Evidence Code Section 1037.1 to require training on disabilities (physical and mental).
- Updates from The Partnership on extending the DVAC sunset date.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Dates for future DVAC Meetings were set as follows:

- Friday, February 28, 2014
- Friday, May 16, 2014
- Friday, August 22, 2014
- Friday, November 21, 2014

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ben Schirmer adjourned the meeting at 2:57 pm.